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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9996  
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 2371  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0712  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1031

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 001439

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/20/2027

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [UNSC](#) [BM](#) [MY](#)

SUBJECT: BURMA: MALAYSIA DOES NOT LINK GAMBARI TRAVEL TO  
ASSK, OR BACK UNSC ROLE

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 1386 - NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ON UNSC ROLE

[1](#)B. STATE 125430 - SEEKING UNSC MEETING ON BURMA

[1](#)C. KUALA LUMPUR 1375 - AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALL  
ON FM

Classified By: Political Section Chief Mark D. Clark for reasons 1.4 (b  
and d).

[1](#)1. (C) Embassy continues to raise the Burma issue with Malaysia's Foreign Ministry subsequent to presentation of the latest demarche (refs A, B). Polchief spoke with the MFA's Southeast Asia and Pacific (II) Director Under Secretary Rahimi Harun on September 14, using the occasion to emphasize U.S. and international concern over developments in Burma. Rahimi stated that Malaysia and the U.S. shared objectives in Burma, but differed on the appropriate approach. The Ministry, however, continued to review the latest U.S. positions on Burma and UN Special Envoy Gambari's next mission.

[1](#)2. (C) Rahimi's deputy, Ismail Haji Salam, contacted polchief on September 20, and conveyed two points "on instruction." First, Malaysia did not believe that Gambari's next travel to Burma should be conditioned strictly on access to Aung San Suu Kyi. Gambari's mission encompassed broad issues of democracy in Burma and should not hinge on another visit to ASSK. Second, regarding Gambari's briefing to the UNSC, Malaysia and ASEAN still maintained the view that Burma does not constitute a threat to regional security. Accordingly, Malaysia did not support a greater UNSC role at this time. Ismail stated that "we are embarrassed by Burma," but offered no thoughts on next steps. He noted that Foreign Minister Syed Hamid looked forward to discussing Burma with Secretary Rice during their meeting on the margins of the UN

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General Assembly.  
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